



28 March 2007

Rail industry to implement changes to train horns

Following the recommendations of the cross industry Steering Group, published in December 2006, the industry has now considered the proposed changes in standards, and taken the decision to implement them.

The three changes are

1. The introduction of a night time quiet period, between 2300 and 0700 when trains will no longer routinely sound their horns at whistle boards
2. That where the technology is available, drivers will only use the low tone from the two tone horn at 'whistle boards'
3. For all new or replacement train horns on trains capable of travelling up to 160kph a much lower minimum sound pressure level has been established – and a maximum sound level has been introduced (Min 101dB and Max 106dB)

The first two changes will be implemented from 7 April 2007 through internal industry publications and the standard for new horns is available with immediate effect although the formal standard change will come into effect in June 2007.

This follows an extensive consultation process involving the rail industry, members of the public, MPs and associations. More details can be found at www.rssb.co.uk/comrelations.asp

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Rail Safety & Standards Board

For further information please contact the Rail Safety and Standards Board press office, on 020 7904 7524/5 or visit the website on www.rssb.co.uk

Notes to editors:

1. RSSB facilitated and chaired the cross industry Train Horns Steering Group, whose recommendations and communications have been published on this website. RSSB also facilitates the cross industry standards committees that make decisions about standards changes. All of the recommendations from the steering group and all of the standards changes have been agreed unanimously.
2. Rail Safety and Standards Board builds industry-wide consensus and facilitates the resolution of difficult cross-industry issues. We provide knowledge, analysis, a substantial level of technical expertise, powerful information and risk management tools. This delivers a unique mix to the industry across a whole range of subject areas.